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The UPDATE is
published quarterly
by and for
customers, retirees
and employees of
Southwestern Power
Administration
like:



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Special thanks to:
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George Grisaffe
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UPDATE

FY 2001 - SECOND AND THIRD QUARTER REPORT

Narrows 50th

BY SHARON KING

Narrows Dam's 50 years of service to the public was celebrated at Lake Greeson, Arkansas on May 24, 2001, hosted by the Vicksburg District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). Master of ceremonies Richard Kimery, Project Manager of the Lake Greeson Field Office, introduced Colonel Robert Crear, Commander and District Engineer, who welcomed those in attendance. Included were descendants of Martin White Greeson, whose tireless efforts were essential in seeing the Narrows Dam project become a reality half a century ago. A number of "pioneer" retirees from the original days of the project were also on hand and received plaques of appreciation from Colonel Crear for the proud heritage of excellence they passed to those who followed them.

Keynote speaker was Richard Davies, Director of Arkansas Parks and Tourism. Mr. Davies offered statistical comparisons of how Lake Greeson has changed in 50 years in terms of tourism and economic impact to surrounding communities. He stated that more people visit Corps projects in Arkansas than any other state.

Ms. Brenda Meeks, Ouachita Projects Manager, and Mr. Bill Hobgood, Chief of Operations, were recognized for their hard work in putting the day's events together successfully.



U.S. ARMY RESERVISTS PRESENT THE COLORS

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Conferring on Hydropower in 2001 (Part I)

BY JAKE GAGE

The first Hydropower Conference of FY 2001 was hosted by the Southwest Division and the Ft. Worth District Corps of Engineers at the Magnolia Hotel in downtown Dallas on November 29 and 30. Approximately 65 persons representing the Corps, Southwestern and Southwestern's Customers attended the conference. The attendees were welcomed by Colonel Gordon Wells, Ft. Worth District.

The afternoon sessions began with a report from Southwestern hydrology engineer Bethel Herrold on the actions taken by the Hydropower Council in their meetings preceding the Conference. Ten projects have been recommended for immediate funding in 2001, two for "fast track" action. An additional six could receive funding recommendations by the Customers subject to the provision of additional information. These projects entail approximately \$4.7 million in maintenance work.

Bethel provided the status of the five current projects funded during 2000 under the Corps/Jonesboro/Southwestern MOU. These totaled over \$6 million in maintenance projects and with the completion of work at Webbers Falls, 23MW of capacity has been returned to the system.



Southwestern's Assistant

ATTENDEES FOCUS ON PRESENTATIONS AT THE LODGE OF BEAUTIFUL DE GRAY LAKE.

Administrator for Maintenance, Dallas Cooper, reported on Switchyard Maintenance MOAs, an early accomplishment of these Hydropower Conferences. MOAs allow Southwestern to use its maintenance crews and equipment to assist with Corps switchyard work. Eight projects in the Little Rock and Kansas City Districts are already benefiting from these agreements. Final details of an MOA with the Tulsa District were discussed. (Note: The Tulsa District MOA was finalized in January 2001.)

The Conference's second day included a report by Ted Coombes, Executive Director of the Southwestern Power Resources Association, on recent public awareness activities, including the rededication of Dardanelle in October 2000 and the upcoming Narrows Dam 50th anniversary celebration in May 2001.

The meeting closed with remarks from General David Melcher, the new Southwestern Division Commander. He said that the Conference was a valuable forum to keep lines of communication open and that dialogue is essential during good times and tough times. General Melcher stressed that issues related to O&M funding are important and that he is interested in "seeking solutions without boundaries."

Administrator Mike Deihl asserted that Southwestern is a "benchmark" for power costs today and in the future. Southwestern offers some of the lowest power rates in the Nation. The hydropower conferences have assisted in such achievements as the MOU, Switchyard MOA's, combined communications systems, Process Action Team on Rehabilitation Studies, coordinated drought operations, and e-mail outage reports. He affirmed that the continued participation of Corps and Southwestern leadership is extremely important.

Hydropower Conference (Part II)

The second Hydropower Conference of FY 2001 was held May 22-24 at De Gray State Lodge in southwestern Arkansas. It was hosted by the Vicksburg District and attended by approximately 70 representatives from the Corps Districts and Divisions, Customers, SPRA and Southwestern.

Following introductions by Joe Woods, the meeting began with remarks by Colonel Robert Crear, Vicksburg District Commander; Mike Deihl, Administrator, and Ted Coombes, Executive Director of SPRA.

Colonel Crear addressed the importance of preserving the partnership with the Corps and the customers in maintaining economical hydropower production. He noted that the demand for hydropower is increasing at the same time as demands on other project purposes. Mike Deihl discussed some insights into the new Administration and the views of DOE Secretary Abraham. The Secretary has made it clear there are no plans for the sale of the Power Marketing Administrations and that, in the National Energy Policy, hydropower has been included as an important renewable resource.



COL ROBERT CREAR

Ted Coombes emphasized the importance to the customers of these Conferences. He also stressed the value the customers can provide to the Corps by communicating with legislators to assure that the Corps received the funding needed to maintain its projects.

Southwestern's Bethel Herrold reported on the previous day's actions of the Hydropower Council. The Council identified and prioritized 24 maintenance projects for consideration for customer funding in FY 2002. These items would total over \$7 million in work. He also provided a status of current customer-funded work under way, consisting of 18 projects totaling \$11.3 million.

The next Conference will be held the first week in November, hosted by the Tulsa District.

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Southwestern Administrator Mike Deihl stressed the many benefits of hydropower in his remarks to the assemblage. Ted Coombes, Executive Director of Southwestern Power Resources Association (SPRA), emphasized the importance of communicating with elected officials to express concern over the proposed 13% cut in the Corps budget for Fiscal Year 2002. He stated that, at present, there is a \$835 million Corps-wide backlog of critical maintenance.

Mr. John Dugan, President of the Board of Directors of Northeast Texas Electric Cooperative, concluded the remarks by noting that the level of cooperation among Southwestern, the Corps, SPRA

and the customers is steadily increasing.

Following the cutting of the celebratory cake, the ceremonial burning of the mortgage by John Dugan and Mike Deihl concluded the program.



**MIKE DEIHL AND JOHN DUGAN
TORCH THE MORTGAGE.**

Surviving And Thriving In The 21st Century

44th SPRA Annual Meeting

Surviving and thriving in the 21st Century was the theme of the 44th annual meeting of the Southwestern Power Resources Association (SPRA), held April 9-11, 2001 at the Downtown DoubleTree Hotel in Tulsa. Following a full day of committee meetings on Tuesday, April 10, SPRA members and Southwestern guests enjoyed a delicious meal, plenty of good dancing and challenging games of survival. Prizes were awarded for various categories of costumes. Suffice it to say you haven't lived until you've seen a banana break-dancing!



ABOVE: KEYNOTE SPEAKER, THE HONORABLE BRAD CARSON, OKLAHOMA 2ND DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE



LEFT: A SNEAKY SNAKE COILS ITSELF ATOP THE HEAD OF THE HONORABLE R.C. HORN, MAYOR OF JASPER, TEXAS.

LOWER LEFT: MONKEY DEIHL GROOMS RON BOWEN, MANAGER OF JONESBORO CITY WATER & LIGHT.

BELOW: BANANA BINNING BOOGIES.



Wednesday, April 11, brought the annual business meeting, complete with presentations by SPRA Executive Director Ted Coombes and Mike Deihl, Southwestern Administrator. The keynote speaker was Representative Brad Carson, U.S. Congressman from Oklahoma's 2nd District. Congressman Carson addressed the topic of the United States' national energy policy and impressed the audience with his insightful remarks.

Ron Bowen, Jonesboro City Water & Light, was presented with Southwestern's Administrator's Award of Merit for his cooperation and contributions toward the Memorandum of Agreement signed last



year among Southwestern, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Jonesboro City Water & Light.

Caucuses were held to elect new members to the Board of Directors from the six states represented in SPRA's membership. Following announcement of the new Directors, the meeting was adjourned and everyone enjoyed a delicious buffet luncheon. Fellowship and fond farewells signalled the end of another successful SPRA annual meeting.

TOP: SPRA's TED COOMBES PRESENTS A PLAQUE TO THE RETIRING RON GREENHALGH OF NRECA.

MIDDLE: JUNGLE FAMILY VALUES; JANE (LOLA BORCHARDT), BOYLAWYER (RALPH GILLIS), AND TARZAN (CHARLES BORCHARDT OF SEPA).

BOTTOM: A HUMAN TRANSMISSION LINE GENERATED BY THE GREAT DANCE MUSIC OFFERED AT THE SPRA ANNUAL MEETING.



Sloan and Southwestern Cited for Success



Steve Hill, Craft Superintendent for Southwestern's Springfield Maintenance Unit, recently received a letter of appreciation from Major John Blickensderfer of the Oklahoma Air National Guard for Southwestern's support of the ANG and its members.

Specifically, Equipment Operator Dick Sloan was cited for his "vital role in a recent deployment to Azraq Air Base, Jordan. His dedication and hard work resulted in a very successful deployment. The integration of our F-16 Fighter Squadron and the Jordanian F-16 Fighter Squadron provided much-needed real-world training in the desert environment." Sloan is a member of the ANG's 138th Fighter Wing, headquartered in Tulsa.

Major Blickensderfer stressed that the support of employers such as Southwestern helps make possible the fulfillment of the ANG's mission to have "the best trained citizen soldiers."

Scales of Justice Tip in Everyone's Favor

BY LARRY YADON, GENERAL COUNSEL

Southwestern has revised and expanded its Dispute Resolution Program, originally created in 1998, in response to recent Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) regulations.

The original program was designed to resolve disputes before reaching the court system. It excluded matters already pending in court and disputes which were the subject of formal or informal complaints. Southwestern has expanded the program to cover all potential disputes except those involving collective bargaining, unemployment compensation, worker compensation claims (OWCP), and disputes or grievances pending in the Department of Energy grievance process system.

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is a collection of methods including negotiation, mediation, early neutral evaluation and arbitration. Mediation provides an informal means by which two or more persons may explore their differences and reach a voluntary agreement through a neutral (mediator) who has no authority to decide who is right or wrong, or otherwise affect the outcome of the dispute. Congress authorized Federal agencies to use ADR in 1990.



Southwestern procedures allow an employee, contractor, or other disputant to choose one of three ADR methods. First, a manager or panel of managers may be selected to hear a dispute and suggest a possible solution. Second, the disputant may select an informal adviser for assistance in resolving the dispute.

Finally, the employee may select a mediator, or in some circumstances, an arbitrator to hear the dispute. Southwestern has access to trained mediators from outside the agency, provided by the Federal Executive Board of Oklahoma.

Questions about the ADR program should be directed to Southwestern's Diversity and Dispute Resolution Program Manager Donna Heslar (918-595-6610) or General Counsel (918-595-6607).

Bob Gardner: Southwestern's Latest Acquisition

BY **GEORGE GRISAFFE**

Following a distinguished career in the U.S. Army's Logistics Command, including a tour at the United States Military Academy at West Point, Mr. Gardner transitioned to the private sector.

His military procurement experience with the Army Aviation Center in support of Southeastern Asia Operations continued with McDonnell Douglas as a contract negotiator on the F-4 and F-14. He went on to Tehran, Iran as a Supervisory Contracting Officer/Office Manager for Bell Helicopter. With the displacement of the Shah, he rejoined government service as a Contract Specialist on the F-16, working in Fort Worth, Texas, Denmark and The Netherlands and other foreign military sales in Greece, Turkey and Belgium.

After serving as an Award Fee Monitor and being recognized by the Air Force for negotiating complex Work Breakdown Structure reporting on a major contract, after award, he was promoted to Supervisory Contract Specialist at Vandenberg AFB, California, responsible for the largest contract on the missile range (\$125 million per year for five years), which included 2,000 contractor employees.



ROBERT F. GARDNER

Mr. Gardner is a Certified Professional Contract Manager and is Level III certified.

His honors include the Bronze Star, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, designation of Fellow, National Contract Management Association and USAF Western Space Missile Center Civilian Employee of the Quarter.

Mr. Gardner reported for his new assignment as Southwestern's Acquisition and Property Program Manager on June 18.

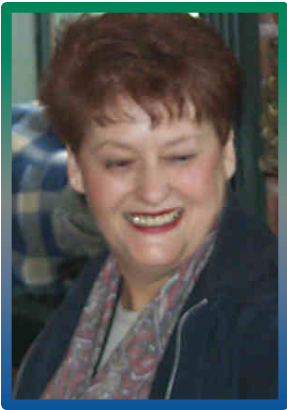
Deihl Honored for Excellence

Southwestern Administrator Mike Deihl received the Distinguished Public Service Award from the American Society of Public Administration (ASPA) at ceremonies held at Tinker Air Force Base on May 7, 2001. The ceremony was a part of the annual Oklahoma Federal Executive Board awards luncheon.

Deihl was cited for "public service that exhibits the highest standards of excellence, dedication and accomplishment."

The ASPA is the largest and most prominent professional association in the field of Public Administration, with a membership of over 10,000 scholars, practitioners, teachers and students.

**"PUBLIC SERVICE THAT
EXHIBITS THE HIGHEST
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Retirements

The closing of the year 2000 saw the retirement of two well-known and highly regarded Southwestern employees. Sharren Ripley, Public Affairs Specialist at the Tulsa Headquarters office, retired with 30 years of Federal service, 19 with Southwestern. She began her career at Southwestern as a secretary.



Don Britt, Maintenance Coordinator at the Gore Field Office, joined the distinguished ranks of Southwestern's retirees after 18 years of service. Don's first job with Southwestern was as a lineman. Both of these individuals will be greatly missed throughout the organization. We wish them the very best.



Please make a note of our new mailing address:

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